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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Father in Heaven, we proclaim Your greatness for what You have done, are doing, and will do. Thank You for Your generosity to us. Lord, we are grateful to live in a nation where we can worship You in spirit and truth according to the dictates of our conscience. Thank You for protecting this land we love, for guiding its leadership, and for abiding in us by Your Holy Spirit.

Give our Senators this day the wisdom to take advantage of the opportunities You give to make a substantive difference in a needy world. Use them to alleviate the suffering of the marginalized and to cause justice to roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream. Give our lawmakers today a deeper reverence for You.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 27, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SMALL BUSINESS JOBS AND TAX RELIEF ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Madam President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 341, S. 2237.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 341, S. 2237, a bill to provide a temporary income tax credit for increased payroll and extend bonus depreciation for an additional year, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, the next hour will be equally divided, with the majority controlling the first half and Republicans controlling the final half. We will continue to debate flood insurance. I hope we can reach an agreement to complete action on this bill. We also need to consider the transportation and the student loan extensions before the end of this week.

There are a lot of things going on on Capitol Hill today. We have been in touch with the Speaker's office. Our staffs have been meeting. When we come to these kinds of bills, the Finance Committee is extremely impor-

tant. And Senator BAUCUS and I have had many meetings with him and conversations with him. The Senator is key to getting everything done. He is needed on the highway bill, he is needed on the flood insurance bill, and he is needed in student loans. He realizes that and has a tremendous obligation and burden to bear, but he always comes through. He has a good relationship with his counterpart in the House, DAVID CAMP.

I am cautiously optimistic we can end this week tomorrow even, with a little bit of luck, but we may not be able to. We have to see what happens in the next 24 hours, which will be key.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Monday's U.S. Supreme Court decision striking most of the unconstitutional Arizona immigration law reaffirms something most of us already knew: the onus is on Congress to repair our broken system. No one denies that the system is broken. But in the 40 hours since the Supreme Court's ruling, Republicans have engaged in revisionist history to explain why it has taken so long to fix it.

Here are the facts. When Democrats brought a comprehensive immigration reform bill to the floor in 2007, Republicans filibustered the legislation. This legislation was led by Senator MCCAIN and Senator Kennedy, among others. The Republicans filibustered this legislation even though Republican President Bush supported it. They twice filibustered the DREAM Act, which would allow children brought to the United States by their parents to go to college, serve in the military, and work toward citizenship.

Democrats have done everything that is humanly possible to pass comprehensive immigration reform. We have been trying to do it for years. Two Congresses ago, we spent more time on immigration on the floor than any other issue, and we were spending that time because we were being slow-walked by the Republicans.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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